

**REMARKS**

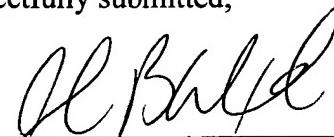
Applicants respectfully request that the subject application be preliminarily amended as provided in the foregoing amendment.

Claims 6, 8, 10, 12-14, 22, and 23 have been amended and new claims 24-27 have been introduced. Claims 1-27 are pending in the application. Support for the amendments to the claims can be found throughout the specification as filed. No new matter has been added by virtue of the amendments.

Although it is not believed that any additional fees are needed to consider this submission, the Examiner is hereby authorized to charge our deposit account no. 04-1105 should any fee be deemed necessary.

It is respectfully submitted that the subject application is in a condition for allowance. Early and favorable action is requested.

Respectfully submitted,



---

John E. Alexander (Reg. No. 48,399)  
EDWARDS & ANGELL, LLP  
P. O. Box 55874  
Boston, MA 02205  
Tel: (617) 439-4444  
Fax: (617) 439-4170 / 7748

Date: October 15, 2004